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RUSSIA'S TREATMENT OF THE FINNS.

As an incident of the crushing of Finland by Czar Nicholas II over 300,000 Finns have left the fatherland in a little over two years. Previous to February, 1899, the Finns were a people unknown to the world except through the tales of travelers, and, in a general way, to readers of history. Today there are 200,000 of them in the United States alone. Up to that date they were content to remain in their own bleak and inhospitable land, where they had become almost universally prosperous and contented. Today the tide of emigration that is carrying them out from under the yoke of oppression seems destined to create a wilderness where a few years ago was a peaceful, happy and prosperous state. It would be a fitting rebuke to the perfidy of a weak and evilly-counseled czar.

In 1809 Finland was ceded by Sweden to Russia. For 90 years Russian monarchs permitted and even guaranteed the existence of conditions solemnly agreed to when that now unhappy land became subject to the Russian crown.

The people of Finland had adopted a constitution in 1792. They had a religion of their own. Russia guaranteed to guard and respect that religion forever, and promised that the constitution of 1792 should be forever upheld. And for 90 years the trust was kept. It has remained for Nicholas II to violate every honored promise of his fathers and to invoke by a single degree the destruction of a state, together with all its institutions of language, church, government and literature, and the banishment of a people from a land they had inhabited for centuries. History records few more pathetic national tragedies.

A few years ago the Finns were a self-governed people. And, it is openly alleged, because Russia feared the influence of the spectacle, the czar issued a manifesto February 15, 1899, suspending the Finnish constitution, reducing the people to the level of the poorest Russian subjects; making them subject to obligatory military service and killing even their literature by establishing the Russian language. Out of 2,700,000 people, but 8000 could speak Russian at all.

During the years they were left to govern themselves the people of Finland had made great progress. They had left far behind them the gloom of ignorance in which Russia is destined to grope for further generations. Illiteracy was practically unknown. They had become a moral, intelligent people, who governed themselves so wisely and well as to elicit the admiration of students of statecraft everywhere. They were farmers who owned their own lands; artificers who owned their own shops; fishermen who controlled their own interests, and as a nation the Finns had established and were maintaining schools and academies of a high order. By their own efforts they had carved out their own state and created the conditions that made them happy and prosperous. By one stroke of his pen the czar robbed them of all he had promised to hold in sacred trust for them. He destroyed their whole fabric of state and society and reduced them from the pinnacle of independence to which they had raised themselves to the most humiliating depths of dependency and beggary. It was an act unworthy of a great ruler, even though that ruler be the czar of the Russians. The Finns have the sympathy of the whole world; Nicholas II has only its scorn.

WANTS HUDSON'S BAY.

The Hudson's bay question promises to be the next to agitate the public relations of the United States and Canada, says the Post-Intelligencer.

Published accounts of the purpose of the Neptune's voyage into Hudson's bay and adjacent waters generally credit the expedition with having established forts, ports of entry and custom houses, all of which is to be machinery for extending British sovereignty over those seas. The Era, an American ship, has already acknowledged the authority of Canada by paying duty on goods intended for use in trading with the natives.

For years there has been speculation as to the

possibilities of Hudson's bay as a summer grain route. The alleged purpose of the Neptune expedition when it left Newfoundland was a further investigation of this mooted question. But if the British lay claims to the great bay and attempt to make it a closed sea new issues will be raised between the United States and Canada.

For the better part of a century American whalers have fished those seas. It is due to the inactivity of the Canadians that the industry is practically monopolized by the Americans. The average returns per voyage are in excess of \$27,000, making it an important industry. To raise a question now that has never even been a matter of discussion between the two countries is attempting a short cut toward a Canadian monopoly of a trade America has created.

If the question is raised by attempts to expel American whalers from those waters under the "headland to headland" theory by which the Canadians laid claim to portions of Southeastern Alaska, there will be yet another matter to arbitrate; for America will contend for the "three-mile limit" following the coast. It is also held, and in all apparent fairness, that Americans have been permitted to use these seas so long that a "right has been established which Great Britain is bound to respect."

WILL BENEFIT THE ISLANDS.

The Vancouver-Bellingham telephone-cable connection will bring one of the most important and in some respects least known communities of Puget sound into direct communication with the rest of the world. We refer to the islands of the San Juan about \$100,000. It will touch Vancouver, San Juan, group, the seat of an important and growing population and of several industries of more or less magnitude.

The cable will be 60 miles in length and will cost Oreas, Shaw and Lummi islands, reaching the mainland on Bellingham bay. The islands mentioned are the larger and more important of this group. Diversified farming, fruit growing, horticulture and sheep raising, together with dairying, are the principal occupations of the inhabitants. On San Juan lime is made in large quantities and among all the islands fishing is an important item. Some of the greatest catches of shrimp of last season were made near Oreas island.

This region has heretofore been somewhat out of the world. It has been reached only by steamer and has had no means of communication other than that afforded by boat service. The trade of San Juan county has been growing in importance for a long time. The proposed telephone-cable when laid brings the archipelago at once in touch with the large and important coast centers. The project is recognition of the importance of island trade that has long been due that section.

FAKE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

The Panama canal commission has taken occasion to warn labor unions, employment bureaus and the public in general against a fraudulent eastern concern which guarantees positions on the isthmus during the construction of the canal, and offers, for a fee, to send a list of the places open and the requirements. The commission states that such positions can be procured only through the commission, that very few are now open, and that there are thousands of applications on hand. The public is advised not only to pay no attention to such advertisements, but above all not to make a trip to the isthmus in search of work.

The fraud concern in question is only one of a number that advertise in American and Canadian daily papers and, perhaps, use the mails as well. Many such fakirs are doing business, and although they are run down as fast as discovered by the postal inspectors, they do untold harm. They will guarantee positions in any line of business at any salary. Their alluring advertisements are cunningly worded and often the felled are without legal redress. They are especially contemptible, in that they usually defraud the idle man, who most needs his money. They have been known to cause thousands to move many miles, only to find on arriving at cities where they expected to find work that they have been duped and are stranded.

In the recent land lottery in which 25,000 pieces of property in the Rosebud reservation were raffled off, Nebraska had 24 per cent of the lucky ones, Iowa 22 and South Dakota 18. There were 106,000 registered applications. It was an odd feature of the affair that women were amazingly favored by fortune; school teachers, stenographers and other working girls were successful in a long list of instances. Now that they own farms, the unmarried possessors of land can easily acquire husbands, if they care to resort to annexation of that kind.

Russia is certainly wise to dismantle her fugitive ships rather than send them out to certain destruction. It is to be hoped apan can claim and get them as a moiety in the post-bellum settlement.

Unless Russia establishes a special tracing department, when the war ends she will never be able to pick up all her scattered cruisers.

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You are going to save yourself the expense of having your piano tinkered up frequently, broken strings replaced, sticking keys fixed, re-tuning and many other annoyances.

You are going to save yourself the necessity of buying a new piano when you become fully disgusted with your bad bargain.

The piano bargains that we are now offering in this wind-up are rare. Remember, they are neither out-of-date nor second-hand goods, but new and consigned stock.

We advertise the truth; our goods bear the closest inspection, even down to the minutest detail, and we save you money.

Purchasers Numerous.
Your neighbors who did not already possess pianos have bought in this Special Sale. You can afford a piano. Why not buy now?

You know them; people from out of town and in are the purchasers.

Music in the house makes life worth living. Why not have a piano?

The Close.

Wednesday, Aug. 31, is our closing day. This is time enough for those who have delayed to purchase one of our bargain pianos, but too short a time to procrastinate. Come at once. In this wind-up \$270 buys a special art colonial case piano of reliable make, the kind that has been held by former dealers at \$550. The best value for your money now in stock. Who will be the lucky purchaser? Is it you?

Remember, the sale closes Aug. 31. "Do it now."

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